



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

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Akron Named Tree City USA® Community by the Arbor Day Foundation

March 30, 2012 (Akron, Ohio) - The Arbor Day Foundation has named Akron a Tree City USA community for its commitment to urban forestry. It is the 17th year that Akron has earned this national honor from the Arbor Day Foundation, the nation's largest nonprofit organization dedicated to planting trees.

"We all benefit when communities like Akron place a high propriety on planting and caring for trees, one of our nation's most beautiful resources," said John Rosenow, chief executive and founder of the Arbor Day Foundation. "Trees shade our homes and add beauty to our neighborhoods. They also provide many environmental, economic and social benefits. We applaud Akron's officials, employees, and citizens for providing vital care for its urban forest."

City Arborist and Horticulturist Bill Hahn and City Landscape Technician Jon Malish have worked extremely hard so that Akron could be classified as a Tree City USA. They have

made sure that Akron has met the standards to become a Tree City USA community. Specifically, Tree City USA communities must have a tree board or department, a tree-care ordinance, a community forestry program with annual expenditures of at least \$2 per capita, and an Arbor Day observance and proclamation.

“Our tree program increases our resident’s property values, reduces energy usage, provides a vital habitat for wildlife, and promotes a healthier community,” said Mayor Plusquellic. “Akron’s residents should take pride in the fact that they live in a community where planting and nurturing trees is a priority.”

The Tree City USA program is sponsored by the Arbor Day Foundation in cooperation with the National Association of State Foresters and the USDA Forest Service.

For more information about Tree City USA, go to www.arborday.org/TreeCityUSA.

About the Arbor Day Foundation

The Arbor Day Foundation is a nonprofit, environmental and education organization of more than 1 million members with a mission to inspire people to plant, nurture and celebrate trees.

More information on the Foundation and its programs can be found at www.arborday.org.

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